

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior claim listings:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a fee for a service of a service provider comprising the steps of:

receiving a service request requesting desired service for a user from the service provider and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider;

automatically recording the service request and the digital signature ~~service provider~~ in an IC card, wherein information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified;

receiving the IC card from the user to determine ~~determining~~ whether said service request and said digital signature are valid; and

when it is determined that said service request and said digital signature are valid, collecting the fee from the user.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said IC card ~~storage medium~~ is connectable to ~~said a~~ a user terminal, and the user sends said service request and said digital signature stored in said IC card ~~storage medium~~ by submitting said IC card ~~storage medium~~.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said service request and digital signature stored in said IC card ~~storage medium~~ are impossible for the user to rewrite.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said IC card ~~storage medium~~ has information used for generating said digital signature.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein said information includes ~~the~~ personal information of the user.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein said personal information includes a user name and a bank account number of the user.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a fee for a service of a service provider comprising:

means for receiving a service request requesting desired service for a user from the service provider and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider;

means for automatically recording the service request and the digital signature ~~service provider~~ in an IC card, wherein information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified;

means for receiving the IC card from the user to determine ~~determining~~ whether said service request and said digital signature are valid; and

means for collecting the fee from the user when it is determined that said service request and said digital signature are valid.

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 24, wherein said IC card ~~storage-medium~~ is connectable to ~~said~~ a user terminal, and the user sends said service request and said digital signature stored in said IC card ~~storage-medium~~ by submitting said IC card ~~storage-medium~~.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for requesting service of a service provider comprising:

a user terminal for providing to a service provider a service request requesting desired service and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider; and

a storage medium for storing said service request and said digital signature,
wherein when the user objects to a charge, in response to a charge collection notice from an accounting terminal, the user enables a sending of ~~data stored in~~ said storage medium to said accounting terminal, and the accounting terminal determines whether said service request and said digital signature are valid before collecting a fee from the user terminal.

27. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein said storage medium is connectable to said user terminal, and the user sends said data stored in said storage medium by submitting said storage medium.